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EQUAL RIGHTS

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"MEN AND WOMEN SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND EVERY PLACE SUBJECT TO ITS JURISDICTION"

Amendment to the United States Constitution now before Congress

NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY, *Washington, D. C.*

Vol. 28, No. 6 JUNE, 1942

Georgia O'Keeffe Honored

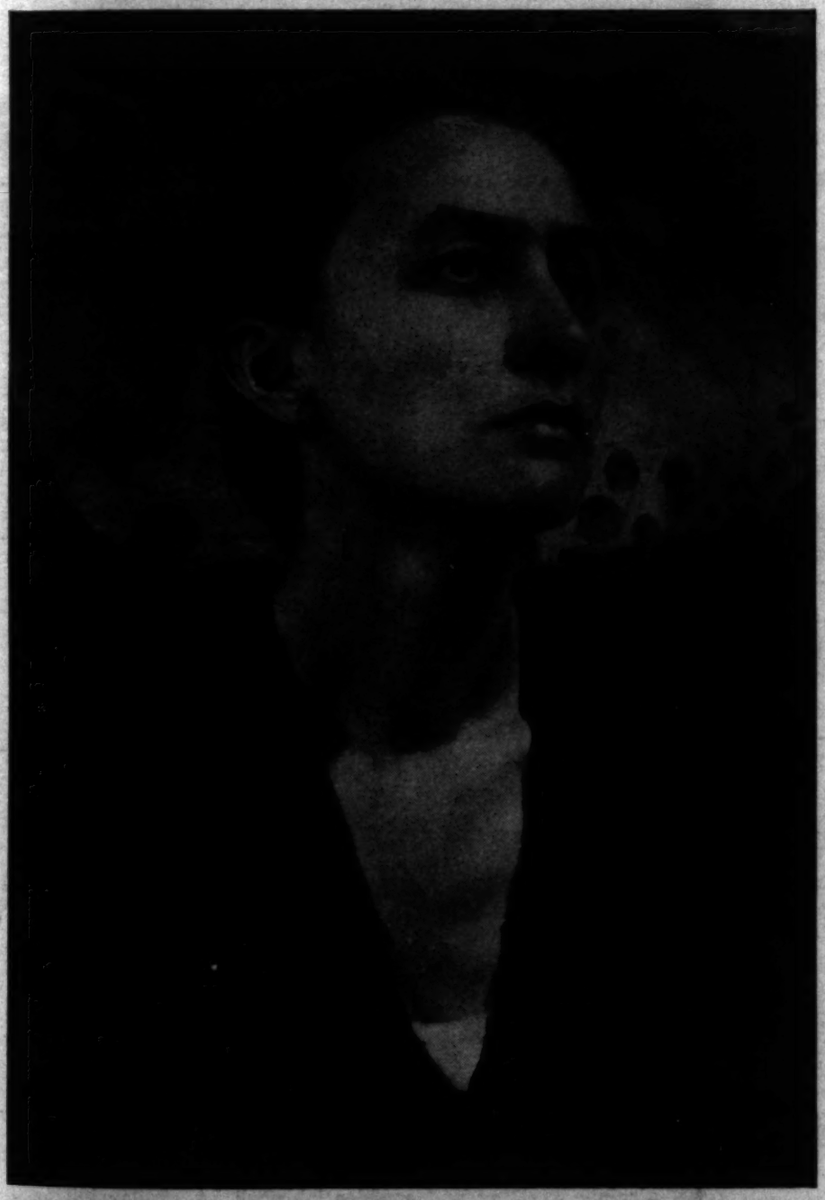

Photo by Alfred Stieglitz.

GEORGIA O'KEEFE, one of the world's outstanding painters, will receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters from the University of Wisconsin this June. At the same time honorary degrees will be conferred on General MacArthur, Ambassador Hu Shih and Dr. Edgar E. Robinson, historian.

A devoted feminist and an active member of the National Woman's Party, Georgia O'Keeffe has through the years supported the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment. Her belief in Equality is an integral part of her life. In her own words: "It is hard to realize that any group still has to work for equal rights before the law. Protection for the individual who needs it in certain situations, should be given, regardless of sex, but equality should be recognized as an underlying basic principle. Surely today when women are taking their place everywhere, we should not think in terms of the reservations and prejudices of the past, but of a joint effort, the freedom of peoples, and of human equality. To me the Equal Rights Amendment is a necessary step in that direction which we in this country have power to take immediately."

Miss O'Keeffe holds a distinguished place in the Art world. Her works hang in the Metropolitan Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, and the Art Museums of Cleveland, Detroit and Baltimore. At the time of the New York World's Fair, she was chosen one of the twelve most outstanding American women of the past half century. In 1938 the College of William and Mary, at Williamsburg, Va., conferred on her an honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, "for the revealing insight and artistry that transfuses her work."

In writing of an O'Keeffe painting, Lewis Mumford said: "Not only is it a piece of consummate craftsmanship, but it likewise possesses that mysterious force, that hold upon the hidden soul, which distinguishes important communications from the casual reports of the eye." Thomas Craven in his book "Men of Art" says: "I conclude with Georgia O'Keeffe, who, besides being the foremost woman painter of the world, is an artist of genuine originality."

Here is a person who has achieved, who wants all unnecessary, unnatural barriers removed, and who urges the immediate adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Equal Rights

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NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

OBJECT

To secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships—in particular to secure the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution, and the adherence of the United States to the Equal Rights Treaty. The Woman's Party also supports the Proposed Equality Amendments to the Covenant of the League of Nations.

THE PROPOSED EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

"Art. 1—Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.

"Art. 2—Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Introduced

Senate—By Senator Guy M. Gillette (Iowa), and Senators W. J. Bulow (S. D.), Arthur Capper (Kans.), Gerald P. Nye (N. D.), Millard E. Tydings (Md.), Geo. L. Radcliffe (Md.), Jan. 6, 1941, (Senate Joint Resolution No. 8).

House—By Representative Louis Ludlow (Ind.), Jan. 3, 1941, (House Joint Resplution No. 2).

By Representative U. S. Guyer (Kans.), Jan. 3, 1941, (House Joint Resolution No. 16).

By Representative Bartel J. Jonkman, Jan. 3, 1941, (House Joint Resolution No. 93).

Present Status

Senate—On the Calendar of the Senate No. 1363.
House—Before Committee of the Judiciary.

WORLD WOMAN'S PARTY FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

ALICE PAUL, Chairman

EXCERPT FROM CONSTITUTION:

Object: The object of this organization shall be to advance the status of women throughout the world, and to promote the recognition and establishment of liberty without distinction as to sex.

Mandatory Joint Income Tax Again

The mandatory filing of joint income tax returns by husbands and wives living together was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee by a vote of 13 to 10 on May 15th. Chairman Robert L. Doughton said the proposal tentatively accepted was substantially the same as the provision of the 1941 tax bill which was rejected in 1941 after a sharp floor fight. The seven women's organizations enumerated in our April issue as opposing this unjust tax have since been joined by the Daughters of the American Revolution, meeting in Chicago, May 6th, who termed the plan "an invasion of the rights of women as citizens and owners of property and an attempt to establish the family as a taxable unit." (See EQUAL RIGHTS for April, 1942, page 27.)

• Your subscription is due if the date on your wrapper antedates June, 1942.

Shall The Young Perish Through Prejudice Against Women?

WE ARE indebted to Dr. Emily Dunning Barringer, the retiring President of the American Medical Women's Association for the facts presented on another page relative to the lack of position of women physicians in the army and navy.

It is not surprising that a traditional view of women should prevail in these departments of government; but it may come as a thunderclap to our readers to learn that the power to discriminate against women physicians in the army lies solely in the office of the Surgeon General of the Army. His office could tomorrow install women with rank and pay equal to that of men physicians, but prefers to withhold this act of justice and common sense.

Like Australia, which choses to close schools rather than employ duly qualified married women teachers, the office of the Surgeon General elects to face a shortage of adequately trained doctors rather than appoint professionally able women. Apparently there is a failure here to understand that a trained woman is equal to a trained man, and far superior to a man of no or slight clinical experience. It is from the latter class that the shortage of doctors will be replenished unless the doors are opened to the highly trained woman and she is allowed to take her place by the side of the highly trained man.

Dr. Barringer, who is heading this fight, recognizes that her task would be over if the Equal Rights Amendment were now in the Constitution. How could the office of the Surgeon General get around a Constitution having these words:

> "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."?

This principle once accepted as part of the Constitution would protect American citizens from the consequences of such an obsolete ruling. The best qualified physician, man or woman, would be chosen and the lives of American citizens, of the young beloved sons of this Republic, would be protected from the stupidity that invokes the barrier of sex to prevent women from ministering to the shattered victims of men's political inadequacies.

IN THE NAME OF OUR YOUTH, let the House Judiciary Committee act favorably without delay on H. J. Res. 2. Let the Senate advance S. J. Res. 8.

Women Able To Fill 80% Of War Jobs

A survey of 21 key war industries indicates that 80 per cent of the jobs could be done by women, Chairman Paul V. McNutt of the War Manpower Commission, said today.

"Women have shown that they can do, or learn to do almost any kind of work," Mr. McNutt said. "Thousands already are working in jobs which have customarily been filled by men and the development of our man power mobilization program may require a more general use of those who have the physical strength and other characteristics necessary to do the work."

The survey, he said, covered 1,859 jobs in war industries and also 937 non-war jobs. It was made by the Occupational Analysis Section of the United States Employment Service to determine jobs women can do.—Washington *Star*, May 22, 1942.

Women's Reserve In The Navy

With speed and without argument the House of Representatives passed a bill introduced by Rep. Melvin J. Maas, of Minn., to create a Women's Reserve in the Navy. The work to be assigned the women would be non-combattant, such as decoding, airplane spotting and confidential work. A similar bill introduced by Senator David I. Walsh of Mass., introduced May 15th was studied at a Hearing of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee on May 21st.

Men Physicians Of New York And New Jersey Support Women's Fight For Equal Rank And Pay In Medical Reserve Corps

LAST December, the Board of Directors of the American Medical Women's Association met and went on record as requesting "that women physicians be admitted to the Medical Reserve Corps of the United States Army (and Navy) upon the same terms as all the rest of the members and with all the privileges accorded thereto." Since then letters and telegrams have flooded the mail of the Surgeon General of the Army and of the Navy and will continue to do so until the women doctors of the United States attain the status, already granted their British sisters—equal opportunity with men to serve suffering humanity wherever it may be found.

Dr. Emily Dunning Barringer, retiring President of the American Medical Women's Association, estimates that the shortage of doctors is already appalling. She deplores the amazing fact that duly qualified women are refused rank and pay equal to that of men in the Medical Reserve Corps. Dr. Barringer is determined to break down this reactionary condition.

"Times have changed," she writes in the *New York State Journal of Medicine*, January 15, 1942. "We are living in a new era where vital accomplishment, not sex, is the measuring rod. I have in mind," she continues, "a number of superbly trained women in such various fields of medicine as contagion, tuberculosis, etc. Would not the American mother prefer one of these experienced, skilled women in charge of her son battling for his life in some base hospital to having him in charge of some young recent male graduate with scant clinical training?

"In 1898," she points out, "women nurses were struggling for a place in the armed forces, a place finally yielded to them, but without absolute rank and equal pay. Today, like the nurses of forty-odd years ago, women physicians are asking to be allowed to bind up the wounds created by men and we are refused the right to follow where the nurses have led."

The admission of women physicians to the Medical Reserve Corps of the Navy would require an act of Congress. The naval reserve acts of 1938 and 1939 would have to be amended, a perfectly simple procedure.

But admission to the Army is even simpler. It requires no act of Congress. Women are eligible *now* and could be admitted immediately but for one difficulty. In spite of an advertised shortage of doctors, the office of the Surgeon General of the Army blocks the way against the admission of women.

Dr. Barringer is the first woman to hold an internship in the New York City Hospital, and the first woman to serve as an ambulance surgeon in that city. At present she is the only woman who has the right to sit in the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association.

Women in the Army and Navy Medical Reserve Corps, commissioned and paid on the same terms as men, are strongly favored by the men physicians represented in the House of Delegates both of the Medical Society of the State of New York and of the New Jersey State Medical Society.

Commenting upon their enlightened position, Dr. Barringer said in the *New York State Journal of Medicine*, quoted above, "This was an act of modern gallantry on the part of the men to their sister women physicians. Yes, it was this and a great deal more, for it was a declaration of justice for women that they should have equal rights with men physicians where these rights had been earned."

When seen in her New York office, preparing for the Annual Convention which is meeting in Atlantic City as we go to press, Dr. Barringer was full of concern for the problems of discrimination confronting not only women doctors, but all women, because they are deprived of equal constitutional status with men.

She expressed keen interest in the progress of the Equal Rights Amendment which has been endorsed by the American Medical Women's Association, and said she thought women should be tremendously heartened by the fact that the Senate Judiciary Committee by a vote of 9 to 3 has favorably reported this fundamental piece of legislation. "This Amendment," she said, "is so fundamental in its justice and in its simple rights for the human family that it needs no further discussion. I feel that the Equal Rights Amendment and the subject of equality is not for one group or for one sex but for the world. I do not see that there is any possible hope for world peace unless once and forever the woman's point of view is taken into consideration as much as the man's, and has equal weight and authority with that of the man. To date, all the controversies and difficulties of civilization have been settled from the masculine point of view by might. There are only a few minds big and philosophical enough to do this super job of securing peace, and among those who must attempt this prodigious task, surely great women as well as great men must have free scope of expression. These women, as the men, must be individually free, intrinsically themselves, if the gift of wisdom which they have for suffering humanity, is to be real and vital and of permanent value.

"These are my reasons then for pressing forward at this moment of world calamity, for Equality in the basic law of our land."

Women's Army Auxiliary Corps

After two months disagreement on details, the Senate, May 12th, passed the bill creating a Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, introduced by Representative Edith Nourse Rogers, of Massachusetts, Dec. 30, 1941. A limitation of 150,000 members has been placed upon the Corps. Otherwise the bill is as it was originally drafted by Representative Rogers, who did war work in France and England during the First World War and saw the need for such an adjunct to our military force then.

In drawing up her bill, Mrs. Rogers conferred with many persons who had first hand knowledge of the splendid women's corps in Great Britain. Women between the ages of 21 and 45 can enlist for such service as clerks, machine operators, telephone, telegraph, teletype and switchboard operators, pharmacists, dietitians, hostesses, librarians, theatre employes, welfare workers, post exchange employes, plotters, tellers, and supervisors in information and filter centers. The War Department has indicated that it wants to use about 10,000 members of the WAAC immediately in the aircraft warning service of the Interceptor Command.

Capable Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby has been appointed Director of the Corps. She has been serving as chief of the War Department Women's Interest Section. Mrs. Hobby is the wife of former Gov. William Pettus Hobby, of Texas. Besides being a news writer and executive, she is a lawyer, public speaker, bank director, parliamentarian and the mother of two small children.

Enrollment for officers began May 27th. Eventually 450 women from the nine corps areas will be selected for officer training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa. Recruiting for auxiliaries will begin later.

Women In War---A Recipe

Dorothy Canfield shows how their present trials may be turned to their practical advantage

(The New York *Times* Magazine, March 15, 1942. Reprinted with the kind permission of the author and the New York *Times* Magazine.)

By DOROTHY CANFIELD

THERE are two kinds of experience of life: one is in relation with other human beings, in which success depends on being tactful, attractive and persuasive, in which being "nice" is a great help. The other kind is with non-human reality, such as the law of gravity, the function of cams, the passage of time, the strength of wood or steel under strain—in which being "nice" doesn't do anybody a bit of good, in which success depends on accurate information, good sense and good judgment.

Women, as a rule, have all their lives, in any society, plenty of opportunities for the first kind of experience. Industrial production and the modern organization of commerce, took away in the nineteenth century a great deal of their natural contact with the second kind of experience. The twentieth century is slowly putting them more in touch with it. That process was speeded up by the shock given to custom and habit by the last war. It is likely that what women will do in this war will give them considerably more of their fair share of the experience with non-human reality, which every grown person must have to be an adult.

Many years ago when I was a tomboyish little girl I had a fascinating young-lady cousin. She really was fascinating — pretty, dreamy-eyed, graceful, sweet, animated, life-loving—a regular charmer. One day I was going on a picnic with her and her little sister and an aunt and uncle. There were five of us, just enough to fill the family surrey. That then-modish vehicle, with its stout placid horse and its fringed canvas canopy, stood before the door. We were just stowing the lunch baskets away in it when three unexpected visitors arrived for the day. Uncle Peter got out, saying good-humoredly, "We'll have our picnic down by the river, where we can walk."

But the lovely Millie wanted to carry out the original plan. She looked up at the arched wooden bows on which the canvas cover was stretched. Her face brightened. "I tell you what!" she cried with enthusiasm. "We youngsters can ride on the roof!"

"You couldn't do that," said Uncle Peter. "Look at it. You'd fall off."

Millie did not look at the roof. She looked straight into Uncle Peter's eyes, her own melting dark eyes imploring. "Oh, do let us!" she begged, in a voice like honey and silver chimes. "It'd be such a lark!"

Uncle Peter repeated what he had said and added, rather curtly, "Now just think! Even if you could hold on—which you couldn't—the roof's not strong enough. It's not made for that. It'd break down."

But Millie did not think. She got out of the carriage, ran swiftly close up to Uncle Peter, took hold of the lapel of his coat coaxingly, tipped her head to one side, smiled enchantingly and murmured as softly as a dove coos, "Do let us! It'd be all right! I know it would! Don't be mean! Let us!"

You don't need me to tell you the rest of that story —that Uncle Peter was soon shouting and profane, that Millie ended by bursting into tears, and that we ate our picnic lunch on the back porch. The point of the reminiscence is that soon after that Millie married a nice man with a good income (why wouldn't she, lovely as she was?), brought up a family with a reasonable degree of success, and is now a sweet-faced grandmother, taken care of with a mixture of patience and exasperation by her grandchildren.

For she was not, as you might think, an idiot, congenital or otherwise. She was only a young female who, in accordance with the best practice of fifty years ago, had been thoroughly "protected." From what? From any experience except that involved in personal relations. She had encountered no difficulties, no obstacles other than somebody's saying "no." If she could only get a "yes" said—so the whole experience of her eighteen years led her to believe—then her desire could be gratified. If Uncle Peter could only be persuaded to give his permission, then the roof would be strong enough to hold up a weight.

She was, biologically considered, old enough to be a mother—in fact, she soon was a mother. As far as maturity of objective judgment went, she was about as old as the tiny child who had been taught as a pretty trick to step off a table into strong arms outstretched to catch him, and who hasn't yet learned that if the arms are not there he will get a bad fall, the law of gravity playing no favorites.

It is the kind of experience with unyielding natural laws which Millie did not have that many American women got out of their activities in the last war and are likely to get out of this. A good many modern American men may get some of that essential experience too—for the specialization of every effort in modern times removes many men as well as women from first-hand, personal contact with natural laws.

How did women lose touch with that kind of reality? Because the system of manufacturing things by machinery in factories and distributing them by selling them for cash, instead of making them by hand in homes and giving them to members of your own family, moved objective reality away from the even moderately well-to-do women. And because the enormous inertia of custom and habit, always lagging so far behind a change in literal fact, has prevented them from making a thorough job of finding the paths out of their homes to where they can once more, as their great-grandmothers did, inside their homes, experience the non-human inflexibility of natural law.

The less well-to-do ones never were "protected" from material reality, and an increasing number of the others made their way in peace times to one or another activity in which they learned that a pleasing personality does not reverse the laws governing fire, water, cold and other forces of nature. The upset of the last war gave a chance to many more to pass through that same door to adult life. And the present tragedy will probably greatly widen that chance. Every time "custom" gets a jolt—and there is no jolt more wildly violent than war—more women are pushed, allowed, urged, permitted, persuaded and forced out into more contact with the same kind of non-personal, non-

human, objective reality which was as familiar to their great-great-grandmothers as to their great-great-grandfathers.

For spinning wheels did not make better thread if run by women who were attractive and persuasive; soap was no more easily made by a girl with a delightful smile; the all-precious hearth fire did not last better through a zero night if the women in charge of it had charm. And families knew, instantly and accurately, if the spinning and soap-making and fire-keeping were not well done. The material, tangible, visible consequences of the actions of the housemother in the old days were perceived at once by the five senses of those dependent on her. There are still consequences, of course, to all her actions now. The wages of error and lack of skill are failure, in purely personal relations as in everything else. But those wages are not paid every Saturday night. Mostly the consequences happen along after the passage of so much time that the relation between cause and effect is blurred and dim.

When my daughter was a little girl she said, on her way to the wedding of a young relative, "I'm so sorry for Bud!" Bud was the bridegroom, desperately in love with the fine girl he was marrying. "For goodness' sakes, why?" the child was asked. "Henrietta is swell. Bud's as happy as a prince." She answered with that disconcerting, out-of-the-mouths-of-babes penetration, "Well, everybody will know whether Bud makes a success of things or not. If Henrietta fails, it'll all be inside the house. Nobody can be sure about it. So long as she stays nice, nobody will think any less of her."

In my youth I was set to prepare for printing the time schedule of classes in a large school. It was distracting work, requiring any amount of racing up and down corridors and into classrooms, to make sure of hours and subjects and teachers. Finally the hundreds of details on the big sheet were all verified. The printer's boy stood by my desk ready to take it off to be set up. Somebody mentioned casually, "Did you hear that Miss Harby has just changed all her German classes?"

I had not heard it. I raced up to Miss Harby's room. She had changed her hours. And she hadn't told me about it because, "You've been working so hard on that schedule I just couldn't bear to bother you again."

No, she wasn't an idiot, either. The only thing the matter with her was that her experience of life had conditioned her to purely personal relations as the only realities.

Let no one claim that this kind of—well, what would you call it? Inexperience is its real name—is any specialty of women. It is a natural trait of character of anybody, man or woman, who hasn't had his fair share of contact with non-human as well as human realities. I was living in Paris during the last war when, after the Russian Revolution, the first White Russian aristocratic refugees came flooding in, with their exquisite accomplishments, delightful manners and an utter impracticality which made the French middle-class women trying to help them think that they really must be half-wits. I knew better. I recognized them as first cousins to my lovely cousin Millie.

Many of those charming White Russians learned, in time, that water runs downhill even if besought to stay where it is with the most bewitchingly wheedling manners. During the ordeal before us, many of the American women who still don't know that will learn it too; even some of those who with that pretty, White-Russian smile are getting themselves photographed in well-tailored new uniforms. The sooner they learn, the better for all concerned.

Won't there be some loss? In an ancient phrase, "Isn't charm better than brains for a woman?" Why that "than"? You wouldn't think of saying that honesty is better for a man than common sense. Everybody knows that if a man isn't going to be a nuisance all his life he's got to have both honesty and common sense. Some charm added to those two qualities wouldn't slow down his chances of getting on in the world either. The possession of charm never hurts anybody's prospects unless it is all he has to offer the world, in which case people of experience flee him like the plague—be he man or woman. There has been far too much specialization going on.

Is there anything more forlorn than the spectacle of a grown woman standing baffled and helpless, unable to put the chains on the wheels of her car, which any 13-year-old boy could do? Yes, there it is; it is the spectacle of an accomplished civil engineer vainly trying to take care of a bored, fretful child, when any high school girl would know how to turn the trick with tit-tat-toe, or cat's cradle. There's no more sense in a man's going through life a perpetual fourth-grade boy in personal relations than in a woman's being a perpetual fourth-grader in her relations with objective reality. Honesty, brains *and* charm—what's the matter with that for a recipe for both men and women?

"Robbing The Human Race"

Those who open the door of opportunity know not who shall pass through nor what great benefits shall come along after they have gone to rest. Nor do those who keep the door closed against women know of what supreme treasures they are robbing the race by their prejudice and obstinacy. Genius is too precious, too rare a thing, to be denied development; yet until women have equal rights with men, in every avenue of life, the world will continue to lose, unwittingly, a part of the greatest potential blessing.

—Edith Houghton Hooker.

In Russia Women Are Equals Of Men

According to an *A. P.* dispatch in the *Christian Science Monitor* of March 9, 1942, "All Russia is paying tribute to the front-line and behind-the-front women fighters, as well as to countless thousands of others fighting Hitler as guerrillas and as factory workers producing the tools of war.

"They are seen everywhere doing man's work. They drive street cars, smiling beneath shawls. . . . They wheel busses about cities. . . . They chip ice from the windswept streets. . . . They cook meals at the front. . . . They go to the battlefields loading wounded on sleds, and personally dragging them to safety. . . .

"They do every kind of work in factories. . . . They flag trains. . . . Others drive locomotives and tractors. . . . Others are engineers on ships and pilots of planes. . . . They make tanks and armored trains. . . . They tend blast furnaces as well as tend babies. . . .

"Behind the German lines, many are guerrilla fighters. They are so numerous in munitions factories there is hardly a weapon or shell that hasn't been touched by a woman's hand

"Women are in every auxiliary branch of the military service. *Under the Soviet Constitution 'women in the U. S. S. R. are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic state, cultural, social and political life'* and they are taking the wording literally.

British Women Fill One Job In Five In Tank Factories

Toil For Long Hours At An Average Wage Of $14 To $16 Week

In a clanging tank factory somewhere in England rows of workers, dingy with dust and oil, bend over their machines. One worker in five is a woman, says the British Press Service.

The vast building, 200 yards long, reverberates with the noise of machines working at full pressure. Bright lights, shining down from the dim rafters 65 feet overhead, pick out the women's caps, their black overalls and their unerring hands that grind and mill and shape the component parts of the 28-ton Matilda tanks for Britain and her allies.

Brightly colored posters on the wall exhibit the finished product. Pictures of tanks charging across the desert bear the caption: "Libya—Help to Finish the Job."

Prepare Tank Parts

Their work involves the preparation of the various tank parts from protection plates to rollers and other essentials and the assembling of the finished details, the fitting of periscopes, signaling lamps and seats. They also paint the completed tanks and clean them after test trials.

One woman drives an electric crane, lifting heavy tank parts and fitting them to the machines. Hers is a skilled job—one slip might kill a man or ruin a machine. Another woman is a grinder whose spectacular job surrounds her with a shower of sparks.

The women have all undergone four weeks of technical training, learning the layout of the factory and the use of tools, micrometers and Vernier gauges. Technical school reports decide what specific job they shall do when their training is finished.

They work long hours—the day shift runs from 7:55 a. m. to 7:30 p. m. from Monday to Thursday, to 5:30 p. m. Friday and to 5 p. m. Saturday and Sunday; the night shift is from 8 p. m. to 6 a. m. On both shifts there is an hour off for meals. Half the women eat at neighboring homes and half remain at the factory for the 20-cent canteen dinner of meat, two vegetables, pudding and tea. During the morning they can draw water from the boilers for a quick cup of tea while they are on the job.

Frequently they prefer to work the night shift so they can do their housekeeping and shopping during the day. If they have children, husband and wife, who frequently work in the same factory, try to arrange their shifts so that one of them is always home. The parents can't see much of each other, but the jobs are done and the children properly attended to.

$14 To $16 Average Pay

The basic rate of pay is $8.60 for a 47-hour week, plus overtime, resulting in a general average of $14 to $16 a week, with $20 for such jobs as heavy drilling.

Health and life are well guarded. Safety posters warn of the dangers of neglecting cuts and other injuries; trained nurses are always on duty in the first-aid room and the women wear caps covering their hair, for loose curls could get caught in the machines with disastrous results.

Tank factories are absorbing more and more women as production expands and as men join the services. Former housewives, mothers, shop girls and dressmakers have learned their new job well. Many of them now beat a man's output in a man-sized job.

—From Washington (D. C.) *Evening Star*, April 17, 1942.

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Administrator Praises Court Decision

The Washington *Star* of June 3, 1942, states:

"The decision of the Supreme Court of June 1, 1942, that services and maintenance employes of buildings whose tenants are engaged in the production of goods for interstate commerce are entitled to the benefits of the Wage and Hour Law was termed 'gratifying' by Administrator L. Metcalf Walling yesterday.

"Mr. Walling pointed out that employers had been told earlier that elevator operators, charwomen and other maintenance and service employes were entitled to the 30 cents an hour minimum wage and time and a half for overtime after 40 hours.

"'We expect this final determination of the legal point involved to expedite the closing of many cases in all regions in which those complained against may have been holding back pending the final settlement of the law,' Mr. Walling said."

The *Congressional Daily* of June 3d, states this decision provides that building service employees of a loft building, which includes tenants engaged in interstate commerce, are subject to the Wage-Hour law. (A. B. Kirschbaum Co. vs. Walling) Nos. 910 and 924.

(Decisions of Courts of Appeal)

The Washington *Post* of April 20, 1942, stated:

"A number of workers engaged in what was formerly considered interstate commerce are now eligible for the benefits of the wage-hour law. Through recent decisions of the U. S. courts of appeal in Philadelphia and New York, the coverage of the fair labor standards law has been extended to employes engaged in producing commodities, which, although entirely consumed within the State of manufacture, aid or facilitate the production of other goods for interstate commerce . . .

"Typical of employes affected by the broadened application of the law are those engaged in producing electrical energy, steam, fuel, or water for use within the State of production by railway terminals or depots, telephone exchanges, radio broadcasting stations or by manufacturers who in turn produce goods for interstate commerce."

(See EQUAL RIGHTS, February, 1942, page 10.)

In view of the interpretation of the United States Supreme Court bringing within the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act such a tremendous number of employees heretofore not regarded as engaged in work involving interstate commerce the women workers governed by state special protective laws for women *only* are dwindling fast.

End Of Sex Curbs Urged

PLYMOUTH, N. H., May 23 (AP)—Miss Sara Buchanan of the Women's Bureau of the Federal Department of Labor said today that increasing social and economic responsibilities borne by women demanded that removal of legal restrictions set up for reasons of sex or marital status.

Addressing the convention of the New Hampshire Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Miss Buchanan declared that women should inform themselves on the laws which govern them as wives, mothers, property owners and employed persons.

"Women should know what laws are stumbling blocks to them in the exercise of functions and rights normally accorded to citizens of democratic countries."—New York *Times*.

Walter Nash Includes Women

"If democracy means anything at all, if liberty means anything at all, if justice means anything at all, if those ideals and institutions in the name of which we are today pouring out so much in men and money, are at all worthy of the tremendous sacrifice being made for them—and I believe they are; if the brave new world we so hopefully look forward to is to be a new and better world and not a patched and tattered reproduction of the old, we must see to it that equal rights, equal opportunities, equal access to the earth's riches, are made available to all men and all women of all countries, regardless of color, race or creed."

—WALTER NASH, *Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand*, in a speech at the Second Free World Congress.

ALVA BELMONT LIBRARY

Mary Elizabeth Downey, *Librarian*

We are pleased to report continued and increased interest in the Library, both in use and accessions, from visitors to Alva Belmont House, as well as from people in all parts of the country and abroad. The reference service rendered is invaluable, and will be more and more so as time passes.

It is a pleasure to report that some persons are continuous donors, from month to month. Delightful stories are accumulating of some most generous persons, which will make good telling by and by. Since our last listing of material received, we are happy to name: Olive Beale, Elizabeth D. Black, Mrs. Franklin S. Blaisdell, Mrs. H. W. Blunt, Jr., Rosemary M. Brownfield, Rebecca Caplain, *Christian Science Monitor*, Lavina Dock, Florence Bayard Hilles, Ethel M. Hunt, Irene Kenny, Dora G. Ogle, and Rose S. Zetzer.

The following list of books desired for the shelves is merely a suggestion:

McCracken, *Women of America;* Meakin, *Woman;* Metcalfe, *Woman's Effort;* Parson, *The Old-Fashioned Woman;* Price, *Life of Charlotte Cushman;* Putnam (ed.) *Life and Letters of Mary Putnam Jacobi;* Michelet, *Agnes Mathilde Mergeland;* Moore, *Women of the War;* Stanton, *Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton;* Stanton, *Woman Question of Europe;* Strachey, *The Cause;* Taft, *History of Sculpture in the U. S.;* Trollope, *Domestic Manners of the Americans;* Whitney, *Elizabeth Fry, Quaker Heroine;* Willard, *Glimpses of Fifty Years.*

Navy Nurse Corps

The Senate Committee on Naval Affairs has favorably reported the bill (S. 2454) to prescribe the relative rank of members of the Navy Nurse Corps in relation to commissioned officers of the Navy.

The purpose of the bill is to prescribe the relative rank of members of the Navy Nurse Corps and to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to fix the money value of the required uniforms which may be issued in kind, or authorize payment in cash in lieu thereof, for the purchase of such uniforms to members of the Navy Nurse Corps.

The committee report follows:

The Navy Nurse Corps was established by the act of May 13, 1908 (35 Stat., 146), which provides in part that "the superintendent, chief nurses, and nurses shall, respectively, receive the same pay, allowances, emoluments, and privileges as are now or may hereafter be provided by or in pursuance of law for the nurse corps (female) of the Army." The Navy Nurse Corps is composed of graduate trained nurses within the Medical Corps of the Navy. They are appointed from the graduates of hospital training schools subject to an examination as to their professional, moral, mental, and physical fitness. They perform duty in naval hospitals, aboard hospital and ambulance ships, and in such other places as deemed necessary by the Surgeon General of the Navy.

The status of the Navy Nurse Corps at the present time is most unsatisfactory and confused. The status of its members, with relative rank appropriate to the different grades, has never been admitted or recognized in a legal manner. Consequently, each new question regarding the status of the Navy Nurse Corps has to be decided as it arises. This results in confusion and uncertainty.

By granting members of the Navy Nurse Corps relative rank, as in the case in the Army, all vexing questions which arise from time to time about their status would be answered automatically. The Navy Department is of the opinion that granting members of the Navy Nurse Corps relative rank would be in the best interests of the Navy and would tend to increase efficiency in the performance of their professional duties.

The committee amended the bill to limit the number of assistant superintendents, with the relative rank of lieutenant, to one for each 300 members of the Navy Nurse Corps. It will be noted that only one superintendent, with relative rank of lieutenant commander, is authorized.

Army and Navy *Register*, May 16, 1942.

More Women In Public Office!

By MARY WILHELMINE WILLIAMS,
Professor Emeritus of History, Goucher College, and N. W. P. Vice-Chairman for Northern California.

One of the bleak disappointments of the feminist movement is the fact that so few women have reached political office in the United States. Before the Nineteenth Amendment was adopted, no woman was sent to Congress from any of the states where women had long been enfranchised, until 1916, when Montana distinguished itself by electing Jeannette Rankin. And today, twenty-two years after that amendment became the law of the land, there are but *one* woman in the national Senate and *eight* in the House of Representatives. We are becoming no better fast!

In the one-house parliament of Turkey sit *twenty* women, though the more docile sex of that land remained in veiled seclusion until about two decades ago, and though it was not permitted full suffrage until 1934. In proportion to the total number of legislators, the showing of women at Ankara is almost 150% better than it is at Washington.

In American state and local political units the ratio of women to men in elective office is little, if any, better than it is on Capitol Hill.

Yet, even the poor showing referred to is optimistically misleading—is worse than it seems; since many women who have been chosen for the highest positions have reached them *via* the cemetery, as the widows of their predecessors, on the promise to carry out their husband's policies, or on the assumption that they will do so. They have not been elected because of individual merit.

Sex pride should cry out loudly for a change—should see to it that many, many more women reach public office; and that they are chosen on their own abilities and potentialities, political principles and ideals. In this, all offices should be included, from that of village mayor to seats in the United States Senate. Let us send to Congress such able, public-spirited women as Pearl Buck, Vivien Kellems, Vera Michaelis Dean, Emily Newell Blair, and Lena Madesin Phillips. And let us begin to talk seriously of electing a woman for chief executive of the land. Woman's point of view must have a larger place in mundial matters as well as in domestic affairs.

This androcentric, man-ruled world which is now destroying itself is a disgrace to all humanity. Women should take advantage of the present fluid war psychology to secure a partnership in world management on a fifty-fifty basis. Thereby as much as possible can be saved from the world wreckage, and this salvage can be used as a nucleus for a wiser, juster future, to be built upon recognition of the brotherhood of man. When the war is finally ended, women must exercise strong influence at the peace table through their votes in Congress, especially in the Senate, which has treaty-making power. They must be included among the commissioners sent to negotiate the peace adjustment.

We can hardly expect the brethren to start a crusade for this needed reform! It must be initiated and carried out largely by women themselves! Let us agitate the subject, in private conversation and to groups! Let women's organizations consider the matter seriously! Let us use the forum columns of the daily press to spread the idea, and the pages of periodical literature, especially of women's magazines! Let us suggest and *urge* that women who are qualified become candidates for office—not excluding ourselves, if we honestly believe that we fill the bill!

Immediately is not too soon to begin this work, for the summer primaries are close at hand! Let's up and at it!

A Feminist Thinks It Over

By ALMA LUTZ

DEMOCRACY ON THE HOME FRONT

THE Women's Bureau has just issued a leaflet, "On the Home Front with Minimum Wage." It is an appeal for minimum-wage laws for women in all states and an appeal that all occupations for women be brought under minimum-wage orders. I sympathize heartily with the concern of the Women's Bureau over low wages of women workers on the home front. But I believe that the method advocated by the Women's Bureau is absolutely out of tune with the times. It looks into the past rather than into the future for women.

If the Women's Bureau had said, "In this war for equal rights and equal opportunity for all, let us build up our democracy on the home front by seeing that all our workers, men and women, are protected by adequate minimum-wage and hour laws, patterned after the Fair Labor Standards Act," it would have been looking constructively into the future, protecting women in the democratic way.

Women are not the only workers who need protection on the home front. Older men who are not unionized, who in the past have been a drug on the market, are now, along with women, taking the places of younger men in restaurants and hotels, in laundries, stores, and offices. They need the protection of a wage-hour law as well as women.

It is common knowledge among those who have watched employment trends in war industries, that the employment and training of women has lagged, that employers have been reluctant to hire women while men were still available. In fact, although employers know that eventually they will have to hire women and might better begin at once and not have to change workers at the height of their war effort, they delay and employ the last available man.

Is this because of the old prejudice against women? Perhaps in a few cases, but certainly not in general. Is it because women are inferior workers? Decidedly not. Women have proved themselves as efficient as men and even more skillful and conscientious in delicate precision work. Is it because special labor laws for women make the hiring of women more complicated for the employer than the hiring of men? I believe this is the main reason for the lag in the employment of women in some states. Even if hour laws can be set aside for the duration on special application to State Labor Departments, employers are not going to bother with this until they have to. This bottleneck for women workers would be removed, if labor laws applied alike to men and women.

If during the war more and more labor laws for women only are put on the statute books, the outlook for the employment of women after the war will be dark indeed. If instead, the labor laws enacted from now on are patterned after the Fair Labor Standards Act for men and women, women will have the opportunity to which they are entitled in a democracy.

In order to protect women adequately after the war when thousands of men will be coming back looking for jobs, the Women's Bureau will have to do some really constructive planning. Every man who comes back from the front has a right to expect a job. This time there will be women coming back from the front as well. They too have a right to expect a job. So will the many women who have worked on munitions and have filled the gaps in the production line. Many of them will gladly leave the Army and Navy and the factory for the job of raising a family. But there will be many who will want a job and will need a job. In a well-functioning democracy there should be a job for every man and every woman who wants to work.

The Women's Bureau has before it the greatest opportunity in its existence, if it will let go of protection methods of the past and look into the future toward a new protection for women, the only protection consistent with democratic government—protection for men and women based on the nature of the work and not the sex of the worker.

Ecclesiastical Status Of Women

By FLORENCE SCHLEICHER TEED

While women are more in demand than ever before for various duties on farm and in office, in defense plants and civilian defense offices, in nutrition, first aid and domestic work, it is not yet evident that in the field of religion there is any greater entrée for them than in pre-war days. Some of us remember that the first war was largely responsible for Maude Royden's coming to the front.

The general situation is much different, in this, as in all other phases of the war. In that other war, more ministers volunteered to be chaplains. Indeed, due to pacifism, the Church is conspicuous by its absence of ministers at army camps. Hence fewer pulpits are vacated; so fewer women are drafted to supply the pulpits. . . .

Whether we realize it or not, the women of Nazi Germany are now occupying the lowest degree of slavery. If we are to retain our present status as free women in a free church, free ministers of Christ, we must protect the liberties already gained; merit retaining them by above-the-average study, living and preaching.

The committee on the "status of women" for the Woman's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church has recently circulated a questionnaire through all the conferences in America to each local society. The survey seeks to ascertain whether the women of the Methodist Church are content with only managing a Woman's Society or whether our church is a Christian fellowship where all understand and plan for the needs of the church as a whole, and where in every sphere of effort men, women and youth cooperate. The advance reports from conference chairmen evidence little understanding of the purpose of the committee. Some reports read thus: "Many of our ministers themselves are not too much in sympathy with this new committee." One conference chairman writes me thus: "The final report shows the situation is not as favorable to women as many believe." This confirms the statement of Grace Sloan Overton that, "Women comprise the bulk of the listening congregation," but as to policy making, law making, etc., woman is persona non grata.

In an hour of uncertainty, men are fearful their positions are not too secure, and are not disposed to give in and grant any advancement to women in religion. The future does NOT look bright it looks gray.

—From *The Woman's Pulpit*, March-April, 1942, Organ of the American Association of Women Preachers.

SUBSCRIPTION CONTEST

We are pleased to announce that the winner of the award for sending in the largest number of new subscriptions for the month of May is Phoebe Munnecke of Detroit, Michigan. Florida, Maryland and Michigan have all been active. Who will win for June? Pennsylvania? New York? California? Illinois? What do you say? Another contest is on for June.